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28. (Amended) A propagation material of a plant, wherein the propagation material comprises the plant cell of claim 24.

Add ~~claims~~ 34 and 35 as follows:

34. (Added) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid sequence of (d) has a sequence identity of more than 95%.

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35. (Added) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid sequence is selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2; and

(b) a nucleic acid sequence that is SEQ ID NO: 1.

REMARKS

The Claim Amendment

Applicants have canceled claims 9, 15, 21, 27 and 29-33 without prejudice and have added claims 34-35. Thus, claims 1, 16, 22-26, 28 and 34-35 are pending.

Applicants have amended claim 22 to improve its form and to recite a nucleic acid sequence that has more than 90% sequence identity to (a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or (b) a

nucleic acid sequence that is SEQ ID NO: 1. Support for this amendment may be found, for example, on page 6, lines 3-16 and on page 14, lines 3-10. Applicants also have amended claim 22 to improve its form in light of the amendments to claim 1. Applicants have amended claim 28 to improve its form by reciting that the propagation material comprises the plant cell of claim 24. Support for this amendment may be found, for example, on page 11, lines 18-20.

Applicants have added claims 34 and 35. Support for these claims may be found on page 6, lines 3-16 and on page 14, lines 3-10.

None of these amendments adds new matter. Their entry is requested.

The Restriction Requirement

The Examiner states that restriction of the claims to one of the following five groups is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

Group I: Claims 1, 16, 22-26 and 28, drawn to an antisense nucleic acid construct and plants transformed therewith;

Group II: Claim 9, drawn to an isolated protein;

Group III: Claims 15 and 21, drawn to a starch isolated from a plant transformed with a sense nucleic acid construct;

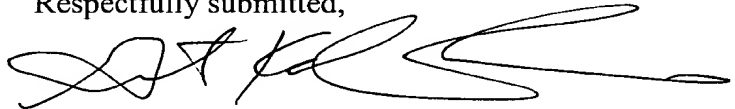
Group IV: Claim 27, drawn to a starch isolated from a plant transformed with an antisense nucleic acid construct; and

Group V: Claims 29-33, drawn to a ribozyme-encoding construct and plants transformed therewith.

The Examiner contends that these groups are unrelated because they have different modes of operation and different effects.

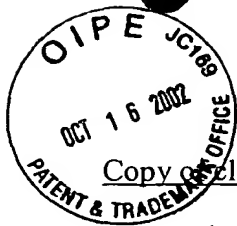
Applicants elect the claims of Group I, i.e., claims 1, 16, 22-26 and 28, without traverse. Added claims 34 and 35 depend from claim 1 and, thus, also fall within Group I as defined by the Examiner. This election is made expressly without waiver of applicants' rights to continue to prosecute and to obtain claims to the non-elected and/or canceled subject matter either in this application or in other applications claiming benefit herefrom.

Respectfully submitted,



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Copy of claims 1, 22 and 28 marked up pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(ii)

1. (Twice Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a part of a nucleic acid sequence, wherein the nucleic acid sequence is selected from the group consisting of:

(a) [a part of] a nucleic acid sequence encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;

(b) [a part of] a nucleic acid sequence that is SEQ ID NO: 1;

(c) [a part of] a nucleic acid sequence hybridizing to the nucleic acid sequence of (a) or (b); and

(d) [a part of] a nucleic acid sequence that has more than 90% sequence identity to [the coding region of SEQ ID NO: 1] (a) or (b);

wherein the part is sufficient to reduce the expression of a debranching enzyme in a plant cell when introduced in antisense orientation.

22. (Amended) The host cell according to claim 16, wherein [the] said nucleic acid sequence of (d) has a sequence identity of more than 95% [sequence identity to a second nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2; and

(b) a nucleic acid sequence that is SEQ ID NO: 1].

28. (Amended) A propagation material of a plant, wherein the propagation material comprises [comprising] the plant cell of claim 24.